IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for exchanging information over a computer network comprising the steps of:

receiving, into at least one network server computer system, a query request from at least one client computer system over a computer network;

formatting the query request into an extensible markup language query document according to an extensible markup language document application program interface;

transmitting the extensible markup language query document to at least one business intelligence server computer system;

receiving, into the at least one business intelligence server computer system, the extensible markup language query document; and

retrieving information requested in the extensible markup language query document from at least one data storage device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one network server computer system comprises a cluster of network server computer systems configured to operate jointly.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one business intelligence server system comprises a cluster of business intelligence server computer systems configured to operate jointly.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

5. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

formatting the retrieved information into an extensible markup language results document;

transmitting the extensible markup language results document to the at least one network server computer system;

formatting the extensible markup language results document into ~~an~~ a browser-executable results document; and

transmitting the browser-executable results document to the at least one client computer system over the computer network.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

formatting the extensible markup language query document to reference a document type declaration, wherein the document type declaration is a set of rules defining the guidelines for the extensible markup language query document; and

formatting the extensible markup language results document to reference the document type declaration.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

storing on the at least one business intelligence server computer system a copy of a document type declaration file including the referenced document type declaration; and

storing on the at least one network server computer system a copy of a document type declaration file including the referenced document type declaration.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of formatting the query request into an extensible markup language query document according to an extensible markup language document application program interface further comprises the step of:

formatting the query request into a document having a plurality of nested elements, wherein the plurality of nested elements define relationships for information contained within the query.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

formatting the query request to include a root level element; and

formatting the query request to include at least one item level element nested within the root level element, wherein the at least one item level element relates to data requested within the query request.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

formatting the query request to include at least one information level element nested within at least one of the at least one item level element, wherein the at least one information level elements relates to objects requested within the query request.

11. (Original) A system for exchanging information over a computer network comprising:

at least one network server computer system for receiving a query request from at least one client computer system over a computer network, the at least one network server computer system formatting the query request into an extensible markup language query document according to an extensible markup language document application program interface;

at least one business intelligence server computer system for receiving the extensible markup language query document from the at least one network server
computer system; and

at least one data storage device for storing information requested in the extensible markup language query document,

wherein the at least one business intelligence server computer system retrieves the information requested in the extensible markup language query document from the at least one data storage device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one network server computer system comprises a cluster of network server computer systems configured to operate jointly.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one business intelligence server system comprises a cluster of business intelligence server computer systems configured to operate jointly.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

15. (**Currently Amended**) The system of claim 11, wherein:

the at least one business intelligence server computer system formats the information into an extensible markup language results document;

the at least one business intelligence server computer system transmits the extensible markup language results document to the at least one network server computer system;

the at least one network server computer system formats the extensible markup language results document into ~~an~~ a browser-executable results document; and

the at least one network server computer system transmits the browser-executable results document to the at least one client computer system over the computer network.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein:

the at least one network server computer system formats the extensible markup language query document so as to reference a document type declaration, wherein the document type declaration is a set of rules defining the guidelines for the extensible markup language query document; and

the at least one business intelligence server computer system formats the extensible markup language results document to reference the document type declaration.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein:

the at least one business intelligence server computer system stores a copy of a document type declaration file including the referenced document type declaration; and the at least one network server computer system stores a copy of a document type declaration file including the referenced document type declaration.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein:

the at least one network server computer system formats the query request into a document having a plurality of nested elements, wherein the plurality of nested elements define relationships for information contained within the query.

19. (**Currently Amended**) The ~~method~~ system of claim 17, wherein:

the at least one network server computer system formats the query request to include a root level element; and

the at least one network server computer system formats the query request to include at least one item level element nested within the root level element, wherein the item level element relates to data requested within the query request.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein:

the at least one network server computer system formats formatting the query request to include at least one information level element nested within at least one of the at least one item level element, wherein the at least one information level elements relates to objects requested within the query request.